

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 NIC-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8706

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03011

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK, UR

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL COMMENT ON ANGLO-SOVIET CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 13-17

REF: USNATO 0955

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1. EMBASSY OFFICER MET WITH JULIAN BULLARD, PRESENT

HEAD OF THE SOVIET AND EE DEPARTMENT OF THE FCO AND HIS SUCCESSOR BRIAN CARTLEDGE ON FEBRUARY 25. BOTH FCO OFFICERS ACCOMPANIED PRIME MINISTER WILSON AND FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN TO MOSCOW. THEY REPORTED THAT FROM THE VERY BEGINNING OF THE STAY IN MOSCOW, IT WAS APPARENT THAT THE SOVIETS WANTED THE VISIT TO BE A SUCCESS. PRIOR TO THE VISIT, THE BRITISH HAD SUBMITTED SEVERAL DRAFTS OF AGREEMENTS TO THE SOVIETS WHO HAD NOT RESPONDED TO ANY OF THEM. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MOSCOW CONFERENCE THE SOVIETS PRESENTED CAREFULLY WORDED COUNTER DRAFTS, AND THE WORKING SESSIONS MAINLY CONCERNED REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE LANGUAGE. ALTHOUGH THE SOVIETS WERE HARD BARGAINERS AND ATTEMPTED TO USE SOME AMBIGUOUS LANGUAGE, AT NO TIME DID THEY PRESENT THE BRITISH SIDE WITH DRAFTS WHICH WERE TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE.

2. BULLARD COMMENTED THAT BREZHNEV'S STATEMENT, PEACE AND THE "PRESERVATION OF THE WHITE RACES" WERE THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES, APPEARED TO HIM TO BE RELATING TO AN EVENTUAL FEAR OF THE PRC. HE FOUND IT A CURIOUSLY WORDED STATEMENT WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN A SLIP ON BREZHNEV'S PART. BOTH FCO OFFICERS AGREED COMPLETELY WITH KILLICK THAT BREZHNEV WAS WELL BRIEFED, AT LEAST IN GENERAL TERMS, AND DOMINATED THE DISCUSSIONS.

3. REGARDING BREZHNEV'S HEALTH, BOTH OFFICERS SAID THAT HE BEGAN TO LOOK RATHER WORN AND TIRED TOWARD THE END OF THE FIRST DAY, BUT WAS ESPECIALLY VIGOROUS AND FIT THE SECOND DAY. THEY COMMENTED THAT HE TALKED OUT OF ONE SIDE OF HIS MOUTH ALMOST AS IF HE HAD RECEIVED AN INJECTION OF NOVOCAINE IN THE OTHER SIDE AND COULD NOT CONTROL HIS FACIAL MUSCLES. HE HAD A TENDENCY TO FOLD HIS HANDS IN FRONT OF HIS MOUTH AND TALK THROUGH THEM, WHICH WAS SOMEWHAT DISCONCERTING AND MADE UNDERSTANDING RATHER DIFFICULT. WILSON'S DOCTOR, WHO OBSERVED BREZHNEV DURING THE MEETINGS, HAD NOTHING OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO ADD.

4. DURING THE DISCUSSIONS, THE SOVIETS MADE NO MENTION OF ADDITIONAL STAFF AT THEIR MISSION IN LONDON (A SORE CONFIDENTIAL

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POINT WITH THEM SINCE THE BRITISH EXPELLED 105 RUSSIANS IN 1971).

5. COMMENT: THE FEELINGS OF BOTH SIDES SEEM TO BE SUMMED UP IN A LOCAL SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER'S REMARK THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE SUMMIT WILL DEPEND ON THE ATTITUDE AND ACTIONS OF THE OTHER SIDE IN THE FUTURE AND NOT THE AGREEMENTS SIGNED DURING THE CONFERENCE. END COMMENT.

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